

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 53 of 1883.

REPORT
ON
NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 29th December 1883.

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| The Chittagong-Daudkandi Railway ... | ib. | The Calcutta Arts School ... | ib. |
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| What are our grievances ? ... | ib. | | ib. |

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No. | Names of newspapers. | Place of publication. | Number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---|
| BENGALI. | | | | |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | " Sansodhiní " | Chittagong | 653 | 21st December 1883. |
| 2 | " Tripurá Vártávaha " | Comillah | ..... |  |
| 3 | " Prem Pracháriní " | Nawabgunge, Barrack-pore. | ..... |  |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 4 | " Alok " | Calcutta | ..... |  |
| 5 | " Ananda Bazar Patriká " | Ditto | 700 | 24th ditto. |
| 6 | " Arya Darpan " | Ditto | 150 | 21st ditto. |
| 7 | " Bangabásí " | Ditto | 8,500 | 22nd ditto. |
| 8 | " Báríabáha " | Pubna | ..... |  |
| 9 | " Bhárat Bandhu " | Calcutta | ..... |  |
| 10 | " Bhárat Hitaishí " | Burrusal | 450 | |
| 11 | " Bharat Mihir " | Mymensingh | 713 | 18th ditto. |
| 12 | " Bardwán Sanjívaní " | Burdwan | 282 | 25th ditto. |
| 13 | " Bikrampore Patriká " | Dacca | ..... | 21st ditto. |
| 14 | " Cháruvártá " | Sherepore, Mymensingh | 529 | 17th ditto. |
| 15 | " Dacca Prakásh " | Dacca | 526 | 23rd ditto. |
| 16 | " Education Gazette " | Hooghly | 745 | 21st & 28th December 1883. |
| 17 | " Grámvártá Prakáshiká " | Comercolly | 267 | 22nd December 1883. |
| 18 | " Halisahar Prakáshiká " | Calcutta | ..... | 22nd ditto. |

| No. | Names of newspapers. | Place of publication. | Number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| BENGALI—concluded. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 19 | "Hindu Ranjiká" | Beauleah, Rajshahye | 200 | 19th December 1883. |
| 20 | "Játíya Suhrid" | Calcutta | 700 | |
| 21 | "Medini" | Midnapore | ..... | 20th ditto. |
| 22 | "Murshidábád Patriká" | Berhampore | 418 | |
| 23 | "Murshidábád Pratinidhi" | Ditto | ..... | 21st ditto. |
| 24 | "Navavibhákar" | Calcutta | 850 | 24th ditto. |
| 25 | "Paridarshak" | Sylhet | 421 | |
| 26 | "Prajá Bandhu" | Chandernagore | 287 | 18th ditto. |
| 27 | "Pratikár" | Berhampore | 275 | 21st ditto. |
| 28 | "Rajshahye Samvád" | Beauleah | ..... |  |
| 29 | "Rungpore Dik Prakásh" | Kakiná, Rungpore | 220 | 20th ditto. |
| 30 | "Sádháraní" | Chinsurah | 500 | 16th ditto. |
| 31 | "Sahachar" | Calcutta | 500 | 19th ditto. |
| 32 | "Samaya" | Ditto | ..... |  |
| 33 | "Sanjivani" | Ditto | ..... | 22nd ditto. |
| 34 | "Sáraswat Patra" | Dacca | ..... |  |
| 35 | "Shakti" | Calcutta | ..... | 20th ditto. |
| 36 | "Som Prakásh" | Changripottá, 24-Perghs. | ..... | 24th ditto. |
| 37 | "Sulabha Samáchár" | Calcutta | 3,000 | 22nd ditto. |
| 38 | "Surabhi" | Deoghur | ..... | 24th ditto. |
| 39 | "Udbodhan" | Calcutta | ..... | 21st ditto. |
| <i>Daily.</i> | | | | |
| 40 | "Dainik Vártá" | Hoogli | ..... | 19th to 21st December 1883. |
| 41 | "Samvad Prabhákar" | Calcutta | 250 | 19th & 20th ditto. |
| 42 | "Samvád Púrnachandrodaya" | Ditto | 300 | 20th & 21st & 27th & 28th Dec. 1883. |
| 43 | "Samachár Chandriká" | Ditto | 625 | 18th to 28th December 1883. |
| 44 | "Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" | Ditto | 500 | |
| 45 | "Prabháti" | Ditto | 500 | 21st, 22nd & 28th December 1883. |
| ENGLISH AND URDU. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 46 | "Urdu Guide" | Calcutta | 365 | |
| HINDI. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 47 | "Behar Bandhu" | Bankipore | ..... | 27th December 1883 |
| 48 | "Bhárat Mitra" | Calcutta | 1,500 | |
| 49 | "Sár Sudhánidhi" | Ditto | 500 | 24th ditto. |
| 50 | "Uchit Baktá" | Ditto | ..... | 22nd ditto. |
| 51 | "Hindi Samáchár" | Bhagulpore | ..... |  |
| PERSIAN. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 52 | "Jám-Jahán-numá" | Calcutta | 250 | 21st ditto. |
| URDU. | | | | |
| <i>Bi-weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 53 | "Akhbar-i-darusaltanat" | Calcutta | ..... | 26th ditto. |
| 54 | "Amir-ul-Akbar" | Ditto | ..... | 24th ditto. |
| 55 | "Jarida-i-numaish" | Ditto | ..... | 24th & 27th December 1883. |
| ASSAMESE. | | | | |
| <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 56 | "Assam Vilásini" | Sibsagar | ..... |  |
| 57 | "Assam News" | Ditto | ..... | 10th December 1883. |
| URIYA. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 58 | "Utkal Dípiká" | Cuttack | 188 | 8th ditto. |
| 59 | "Utkal Darpan" | Balasore | 200 | 9th ditto. |
| 60 | "Balasore Samvad Váhika" | Ditto | 92 | |
| 61 | "Purusottam Patriká" | Pooree | 330 | 10th ditto. |
| <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 62 | "Sabaka" | Cuttack | ..... |  |
| HINDI. | | | | |
| <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 63 | "Kshatriya Patriká" | Patna | 400 | |

POLITICAL.

The *Prajābandhu*, of the 18th December, says that there are two ways in which an escape may be found from the Egyptian difficulty—*first*, by the reinstatement of Arabi Páshá in power; *secondly*, by the annexation of Egypt. The English in Egypt.

But the latter course is not practicable, because in that case the relations of England with the powers of Europe will be disturbed.

2. The *Samvád Purnachandrodaya*, of the 27th December, remarks that, though a war between France and China is not likely to affect injuriously the opium revenue of the Indian Government, still it behoves that Government to labour to bring about an amicable settlement between the belligerent powers.

PRAJABANDHU,
Dec. 18th, 1883.

SAMVAD PURNA-
CHANDRODAYA,
Dec. 27th, 1883.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

3. The following is the substance of an article in the *Sádhárani*, of 16th December:—Thanks to Mr. Ilbert, the people have learnt many lessons since his

The tenants' cause. advent into this country. They have seen Messrs. Lethbridge and Haggard become quite changed beings. They have seen how, to gain a name, one may make patriotic speeches. Thanks to Mr. Ilbert, they have found out the wicked as well as the good. They have seen how venal Editors may in their writings affect a love of justice, while not scrupling to ruin innocent people. It is well that the cat is out of the bag. Knowing that it is idle to conceal their views any longer, the Keswicks, the Kristodases, the Bells, the Hills, the Lethbridges, the Bartletts, the Jotendros, the Rajendros, and others are forming a clique. The sacrifice on the altar of self-interest has already begun. All moral principles and regard for appearances have been thrown overboard, and the European, the zemindar, the god and the demon, have all formed a combination. The friends of the tenants are remaining idle. The apathy shown at this crisis by the Indian Association is indeed criminal. Surendro Babu is silent for reasons not known to the public. Mr. Amir Ali and Mr. W. C. Bonnerji are friends of the ryots. Why should not all these co-operate with the numberless ryots of this country for their common welfare? It is to be hoped the subject will soon receive the consideration it deserves.

4. We extract the following observations from an article in the same paper, headed “The downfall of the High Court”:

The High Court.—The High Court is the chief tribunal in this country. Formerly, the people held the administration of justice by the High Court in great esteem and respect. But owing to the faults of certain rash Judges of the High Court, the esteem and respect in which that Court was held by the people have gradually diminished. It is surely a difficult task for a man to set himself to judge of the merits and demerits of another. On such occasions the mind should be kept in a state of equilibrium; such passions as envy, hatred and anger should be entirely banished from the heart. Indeed, everybody despises the Judge who cherishes in his heart feelings of race-antagonism, race-distinction and bias, and in the discharge of his judicial work allows himself to be swayed by them. The failings of Judges who occupy eminent positions soon become conspicuous, and the people then begin to shun their presence as of an abomination. Another important duty devolves upon the Judges. They must not only be satisfied in their own minds that they have done justice, but the public also must be convinced of the justice of their decisions. The Editor is exceedingly sorry to notice that one or two Judges of the

SÁDHARANI,
Dec. 16th, 1883.

SÁDHARANI.

High Court lack the godlike attributes which Judges ought to possess. What intensifies his regret is that, owing to the faults of these men, the whole High Court is being brought into contempt. It is believed by many that the Ilbert Bill has excessively heated the brains of some low-minded Englishmen. The thought that the black native of India will be given criminal jurisdiction over Europeans has deprived these men of their sleep at night. Want of sleep brings on various diseases, and it is therefore no wonder that those narrow-minded Englishmen have in some measure lost their reason. Owing to this circumstance they have lost their sense of right and wrong, and have forgotten how they should maintain the dignity of their position. To harass the people of India by all means in their power has now become the sole object of their life. Many say that, if the Ilbert Bill had not been introduced, a very unjust sentence would not have been passed upon Surendra Nath the other day. People again do not hesitate to freely say in public that the Ilbert Bill was also at the root of that affair which occurred the other day. The appeal in the case of the Dacca student recently came up for hearing before Mr. Justice Cunningham. Unfortunately for the student, the appeal was heard by Mr. Justice Cunningham, and not by Justices Mitter and Pigot, who were to have heard it. The Judge did not pay any heed to the many reasonable arguments adduced on behalf of the appellant by Mr. Ghosh, and confirmed the sentence of the Magistrate of Dacca. In other words, that raw school-boy of tender years has been again sent to jail. The crime of which the student has been convicted, and for which he has been sent to jail, is one which, had it been committed in England, would have subjected the offender, if a wealthy man's son, to a fine at the most of £5, and, if a poor man, to one of still less amount. Mr. Ghosh adduced many such arguments, but Mr. Justice Cunningham did not pay heed to any. It is therefore no wonder that people should say that Mr. Cunningham has through ill-will confirmed the rigorous sentence of the Magistrate. School-boys have always been treated with some measure of indulgence; their occasional acts of indiscretion are overlooked on the ground that they are all due to boyish disposition. In these circumstances, Mr. Justice Cunningham has not done well by confirming the hard sentence on the Dacca student. The Judge will probably seek to justify his action by urging that he has not done anything illegal; but everybody knows that good Judges do not always allow themselves to be guided by the mere letter of the law, but are satisfied if the object of the law is attained. But there are one or two Judges in the High Court who have ceased to look at a question in all its bearings. Their actions are occasionally marked by a spirit of race-antagonism. The effect of the existence of race-antagonism in a court of justice is already visible; that is, people are gradually losing all confidence in the High Court. The Editor sincerely desires that the public may not lose confidence in the highest tribunal in the country. Such a result is likely to injure both the rulers and the ruled. The article concludes with a prayer to Government that it may, by transferring or correcting incompetent Judges, and appointing competent men to do judicial work in future, maintain the former reputation of the High Court.

5. The following is a translation of an article in the same paper, headed "A protest against the saying that

India not conquered by force.

India has been won at the point of the sword,

and must be governed at the point of the sword":—Many Englishmen, good and bad alike, are in the habit of saying that India has been won at the point of the sword, and that she is to be held at the point of the sword. But this saying is as opposed to moral principles as it is unfounded. History does not endorse the saying that the English have, through their own force

of arms only, come into the possession of the whole of India. In India it was Bengal that first came into the possession of the English, but that was not through their force of arms. True it is that the then Subadar of Bengal, Serajuddowla, fled before Clive from the battle-field of Plassey, leaving his throne behind; but for that result neither English sword nor English cannon is entitled to any credit. If anything deserves any credit for having reduced Nawab Serajuddowla to that plight, it is the conspiracy made by certain native zemindars, and the treachery of Mir Jaffir, the Nawab's General. Nor did the English succeed, owing to that event, in acquiring any possessions in Bengal. As regards dominion, the outcome of that event was that Sarajuddowla was succeeded on the throne by Mir Jaffir. Then, after a few years, the Emperor of Delhi, Shah Alum, conferred the Dewany of Bengal, Behar and Orissa upon the English. Since that time the English became the administrators of civil justice, revenue receivers, and legislators in regard to such matters in those three Subahs. They did not receive any powers in connection with criminal matters, such powers continuing in the hands of the Nawab; but in proportion as the Nawab became indolent, the shrewd English began to assume those powers. Thus it is clear that for the acquisition of Empire in Bengal, Behar and Orissa, the English are not indebted to their force of arms, but to their own diplomacy and to the gifts of others. Subsequently the English received from the Nawab of Lucknow the gift of certain provinces. As they themselves admit this, it is needless to write anything more on the point. Of course, it must be admitted that the English have conquered many provinces of India in war, and brought them under their rule; but it must also be admitted at the same time that that conquest was not accomplished by European troops alone, the native Sepoys having rendered material assistance in that matter. But for the Sepoys, the English would never have been successful on those occasions. The statement of those Englishmen, therefore, that say that India has been won only through their force of arms, is historically and essentially false.

Even if it were admitted, for argument's sake, that the English have conquered the whole of India at the point of the sword, it can still be never reasonable or consistent with statesmanship to maintain that India is therefore to be held and governed at the point of the sword. To rule the subjects as one rules his children is the supreme duty of the Sovereign. If, instead of doing that, the Sovereign seeks to keep the people in subjection by force, then neither does good-will nor confidence spring up between the Sovereign and the subjects. The latter do not entertain any feelings of affection or esteem for the former, are always discontented and always wish evil to the former. Those, therefore, that counsel a government of India at the point of the sword lack knowledge and moral training, and their advice is extremely erroneous. As regards the administration of India, the duty of the English rulers appears to be to look with affectionate and impartial eyes upon the people of this country, to trust them, to open to them public offices without any distinction of race or creed, to abstain from showing any bias in the administration of justice, and to place the foundations of the Empire upon their love instead of on their fear. If that were done, the Empire would be free from all danger, and firmly established.

6. We extract the following observations from an article in the same paper, headed "The modifications in the Ilbert Bill":—The more intelligent members

The Ilbert Bill.
of the English community have understood that even if the Ilbert Bill is passed in its present form, they are not likely to suffer any injury. Every European can see that by maintaining intact section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, allowing the European accused the right of having their cases transferred by order of the High Court to the file of any other Magistrate

at pleasure, and vesting the local Governments with the power of appointing the Justices of the Peace, the Government of India would be doing something pleasing to the Europeans. But whether the English can see this or not, it is clear that natives will not in the least benefit now by the passing of the Bill with modifications. When the measure was first introduced into the Legislative Council, the people had grave doubts whether it would pass at all. The subsequent agitation, the meetings successively held by Englishmen, the loud outcries of the *Englishman* newspaper, all tended to strengthen their doubts. When, afterwards, modifications in the Bill were announced, and official opinions published, the conviction forced itself upon the mind that, in whatever form the Bill might pass, it would not much benefit the people. It is found that those natives who ought to be made Magistrates are not being given the post of Magistrate, the Local Government promising and yet not fulfilling its promise. How many Europeans who passed the Civil Service Examination at the time when those natives passed it have become first grade District Magistrates, but they are growing old in the Joint-Magistracy. When these Bengali Civilians become District Magistrates, and are appointed Justices of the Peace by Lieutenant-Governors like Mr. Thompson, they will then be given the power of trying Europeans; but when is that to be? Even though the Native Magistrates be vested with power to try Europeans, it will still be open to the High Court to deprive them of that power at its pleasure. There is nothing in the Bill to show that, to do so, the High Court would find it necessary to go into much evidence. The words "made to appear," which have been inserted in the Bill, are very ambiguous. Unless it were clearly laid down on what sort of evidence it would be "made to appear" that a miscarriage of justice was likely to result from the trial of a European by a native Magistrate, the European accused would seek on trivial grounds to have their cases transferred from the courts of Native Magistrates. It, however, does not appear that any such provision will be made in the Bill. Further, the necessity of the proposed amendment of section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is not clear. Why should a case be kept pending by orders of the High Court even before its trial had begun? All these considerations have produced the belief that even if the Ilbert Bill is passed, to the people it would be much like the mountain bringing forth the mouse. By not passing the Bill, Lord Ripon might have gladdened the hearts of his opponents; that he has not done so is a piece of rare good fortune to the people, and for this he is entitled to their gratitude.

SADHARANI,
Dec. 16th, 1883.

Certain puzzles.

understood":—

1. Why, under Lord Ripon's rule, which is like the rule of Rama, the Arms Act has not been repealed.
2. Why the opponents of the Ilbert Bill have not been punished, though they illegally indulged in abuse.
3. Why all the Bengali subscribers to the *Englishman* have not yet discontinued their paper.
4. Why the number of subscribers to the *Mirror* is not increasing.
5. The meaning of the words *Hindu Patriot*.
6. Why, under Lord Ripon's rule, Editors are not being yet supplied with the Weekly Report on Native Papers, though they are loudly asking for it.
7. The use of monthly magazines.
8. What the outcome has been of the Railway Conference.

7. The same paper contains the following under the head of "What we have not

9. Why the doings of high-handed magisterial officers are noticed in newspapers.
10. Why people, whenever there is any talk about the appointment of a new Member to the Bengal Council, point to Kristodas.
11. What has become of the balance of the Surendra Appeal Fund, which was kept in deposit with the Editor of the *Mirror*.
12. Mr. Fawcett's vindication.
13. How outstills show the prosperity of the people.
14. Why people invite the pleader class to join meetings for the promotion of works of public utility.
15. The meaning of Mr. Branson's apology.
16. Why the *Statesman* remains silent when the subject of the Rent Bill is broached.
17. Why a court is called an incarnation of justice.
18. Why people put up with rough treatment on the railways after paying their money.
19. Why we bother our heads with all these.

8. The *Cháru Vártá*, of the 17th December, remarks that, if
 The Ilbert Bill. the Ilbert Bill does not pass, the results will be
 of two kinds—direct and indirect. They can-

not all be explained. The direct effect of the withdrawal of the Bill will be that the Government will become very weak; its power for legislating with a firm hand will be curbed. The self-seeking Europeans in this country will begin to commit such excesses that the natives will never have peace. It will not be possible to undertake any measure for the good of the people, if it at all interferes with the interests of the self-seeking Europeans. Lord Ripon will suffer in public estimation.

The king is bound to his subjects by a convention. This convention may be inscribed on copper-plates. It is axiomatic even if it is not so inscribed. The native princes never bound themselves by solemn conventions on copper-plates. They thought that to keep the subjects contented and pleased was a religious duty. The British Government came to India in the guise of a beggar and became its ruler; it came as merchants and became emperor—so the Government is bound by a convention. It would not have been an easy matter to rule this country without the Proclamation of the year 1858. Government may not obey the injunctions of the Christian religion, but the pledges given in the Proclamation it is bound to fulfil. If it does that, the results will be beneficial. Hundreds of Englishmen are prepared to fight, either with the bow or with the tongue, at the war-cry of the tea-planters. They depend on their forty thousand volunteers. They may threaten; Lord Ripon may be unpopular with his countrymen; but if the Bill passes, it will leave the prestige of the Government intact. This prestige, when preserved, will be beneficial in two ways: It will show to the world that the British Government has not as yet become worthless, and that it can redeem its pledges. It will increase the loyalty of the Indian population, who will be more and more attached to the Government.

The recent utterances of the Viceroy show that the Bill will be passed with so many modifications that it will not much benefit the natives. If the Bill passes with these modifications, it will be passed only in name. With the low standard of age in the Civil Service Examination, few natives will become District Magistrates and Sessions Judges. If the Local Government is entrusted with the power of appointing Justices of the Peace, it will appoint Europeans alone. If the High Court has the power of transferring suits, natives will have not many cases to try. How many Europeans will like to be tried by natives, if they can get themselves to be tried by their own countrymen? Thus Government is now only saved the disgrace of withdrawing the Bill.

CHARU VARTA,
 Dec. 17th, 1883.

PRAJABANDHU,
Dec. 18th, 1883.

9. The *Prajābandhu*, of the 18th December, disapproves of the conduct of the *Englishman* in denouncing the Native Press as disloyal. If the Native Press

is disloyal for severely criticizing the conduct of Mr. Thompson, the *Englishman* has written hundred times more severely against Lord Ripon. It has used Billingsgate. No educated man will ever write in the way the *Englishman* has done. Its writings are all in the worst taste. It is behaving in fact like a mad dog.

PRAJABANDHU.

10. The same paper publishes a song on the Ilbert Bill, in which the writer says that the Ilbert Bill is all a farce. It is like the well-known sweetmeat of Delhi.

India will not reap the highest good if the Bill passes. The enemies of India in one voice denounce the natives as liars. But the vanity of these foreign haters has been deeply wounded by exposures in the Pigot-Hastie case. Had such a case arisen between natives, the parties would have been sent to jail for perjury.

BHARAT MIHIR,
Dec. 18th, 1883.

11. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 18th December, points out the desirability of making provisions in the Rent Bill regarding the rights of all classes of

ryots in the *bastu* or homestead land. Now the ryots in this country are passionately attached to their homesteads, and eviction therefrom is considered a grave misfortune. But this is precisely the fact which high-handed zemindars turn to advantage. Now, as far as this matter is concerned, in the Bill in its present form certain safeguards are provided in the case of the settled ryots only.

BHARAT MIHIR.

The Ilbert Bill. 12. The same paper asks that the Ilbert Bill should be passed without delay.

BHARAT MIHIR.

13. The same paper observes, in reference to the transfer of Mr. Kirkwood, the Sessions Judge of Mymensingh, to Moorshedabad, that, while in the former district, Mr. Kirkwood's conduct was so noble that the people could not make out that he was the Kirkwood of Chittagong.

BHARAT MIHIR.

14. The same paper complains that the present District Judge of Mymensingh takes a long time in giving judgments in both criminal and civil cases.

BHARAT MIHIR.

15. The same paper complains of the recent action of Mr. Manisty, the Officiating Magistrate of Mymensingh, in having fined the Road Cess Accountant, who had simply refused to pass the pay-bill of the District Engineer, Mr. Walnut, on the ground that it had not been drawn up in the prescribed manner.

BHARAT MIHIR.

16. As Mr. Walnut, the District Engineer of Mymensingh, says the The post of District Engineer in same paper, is going to Madras, the post Mymensingh. should be conferred upon a native.

HINDU RANJIKĀ,
Dec. 19th, 1883.

17. The *Hindu Ranjikā*, of the 19th December, continues its article Admission into the army. on the Army, and says that physical power is the principal element of national life. The system, as regards military education, adopted in British India is making the natives weaker and weaker every day. The natives of India have shewn their physical powers several times during the Mahomedan period. Those powers are no more in existence. Without a reform in the Military Department, all the hopes of the natives will come to an end. If Lord Ripon considers the matter favourably, these hopes may yet be realized.

HINDU RANJIKĀ.

18. The same paper says that Baboo Krisna Behari Sen is a member of the Outstill Commission. He is a leading member of the Temperance Society. His appointment will lead to the removal of much that is blameable in the

present system. But he has no knowledge of the mofussil. The Rev. Mr. Evans, the celebrated missionary of Patna, should have been appointed to the Commission.

19. The *Sahachar*, of the 19th December, says that Mr. Mackenzie, Secretary to the Government of India, has declared, at the distribution of prizes in a

The Burki College.
certain institution, that the India Government has written to the Secretary of State for altering the Resolution which appeared on the subject of the Burki College. Lord Argyll has decided that the Eurasians and domiciled Europeans should be regarded as natives in matters of public employment. Still, in the Burki College Resolution, natives of pure blood are only mentioned, so the writer admits that the Europeans and the Eurasians have just reason to complain. The Governor-General has justly taken steps to abolish this distinction. The natives want fair field and no favour. The writer wishes that the utterances of Mr. Mackenzie in regard to Government employments may be carried into practice, and that promotion may depend on merit, and not on favour.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 19th, 1883.

20. The same paper remarks that the Commissioners of the Calcutta

SAHACHAR.

The Calcutta Municipality. Municipality have done much to clear drainage, to extend the water-supply, to regulate the night-soil service, to improve the *bustees*, to fill up stagnant pools, and so on. The writer is of opinion that official reports, as a rule, speak thousand times more than what is actually done. Mr. Harrison's report is no exception to this rule. Many still remember the trouble and inconvenience which people had to suffer for water in the last hot season. The report says that sufficient arrangements have been made for an increased supply of water. But still many houses are not properly supplied. Houses which are away from the main roads have still to suffer from a scarcity of water. Of course the scarcity is not so keenly felt as it was during the last hot season. The writer is sorry to observe that the inhabitants in lanes do not enjoy the benefits of municipal arrangements in the same way as the residents along the main roads do. The lane in which there are two or three rich residents, or which is inhabited by a Commissioner, is daily cleansed and watered. The Health Officer and Inspector keep an eye on the privies in that lane; but if Mr. Harrison passes through less favoured lanes and native *bustees*, the writer thinks his reports will become of a different character. Among other causes of the prevalence of illness, the writer thinks that the filthiness of drains and insufficiency of water for drinking and bathing purposes are the chief.

21. The *Dainik Vártá*, of the 19th December, proposes that the

DAINIK VARTA,
Dec. 19th, 1883.

Separation of Judicial from Executive work.

administration of the criminal justice should be entrusted in the hands of a separate class of Judges. The Collectors will preserve the

peace of their districts and have control over the police. But they should have no criminal power, just as the Commissioners of Divisions have no criminal power at the present day. The new officers will try criminal cases only.

22. The *Samvád Prabhákar*, of the 20th December, says that the

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
Dec. 20th, 1883.

Native Press Association.

establishment of a Native Press Association has become absolutely necessary, not only for

the purpose of moving Government to supply native editors with the Report on Native Papers prepared by the Bengali Translator and the other publications of Government, but also for discussing various other important questions.

23. The *Dainik Vártá*, of the 20th December, is sorry that Baboo

DAINIK VARTA,
Dec. 20th, 1883.

Baboo Ambica Charan Sen.

Ambica Charan Sen has been appointed a

Native Civilian after his brilliant career in the Calcutta University and in the Cirencester College, while the model farm at Shahabad has been placed under the charge of a European Civilian. Baboo Ambica Charan's class friend also has received certificates that he has

a thorough knowledge of the agricultural science, both manual and mechanical. But why are not these men placed in charge of model farms? Can better men than these be procured in India?

DAINIK VARTA,
Dec. 20th, 1883.

24. The same paper remarks that the Vernacular Press is much more important than the English Press. The

The Native Press.
English Press communicates the feelings of the people to the Government, but the Vernacular Press communicates the feelings of the Government to the people. The Government therefore should make friends with the Vernacular Press, which wields so much power. Much more depends on the Vernacular than on the English Press both as regards doing good and as regards doing evil. It is expected that the reports, resolutions, and so on of both the Governments of Bengal and India will be supplied to the Vernacular Press, and Lord Ripon has himself made a resolution to this effect. But why is not this resolution given effect to? Does the Vernacular Press alone feel the necessity of this? Take the case of the report of the Education Commission: is it not important to Government that the people should know the contents of the report, compiled with so much labour and so much expense? Who, but the members of the Vernacular Press, will make them known to the people?

MEDINI,
Dec. 20th, 1883.

25. The *Medini*, of the 20th December, says that there are two classes of Englishmen in India—the officials and Lord Ripon and Anglo-Indians. the non-officials. Those that cannot procure the means of subsistence at home come to India, for there are many facilities of earning livelihood in this country for an Englishman. They snatch away, when necessary, the morsel from the hand of the native. They rove all over India like so many mad bulls; they are not liable to punishment even for the most heinous offence. Many who hold high offices under Government are ready to sympathise with great criminals if only they are their countrymen. They have nothing to fear. The natives are disarmed; they are fully armed. They can, to maintain their ascendancy, kill natives like unprotected beasts, if only they spend a handful of money. In cases of murder the pleas of the rupture of the spleen, of mistake and of insanity are readily accepted by the Court. They are judged by different laws. If one of them acts contrary to law, there are numberless Associations and Societies to protect him. The Judge who subscribes in the morning towards his relief will not hesitate in the noontime to sit on judgment over him, thus showing a high model of impartiality. The higher courts of justice belong to his own countrymen. They have newspapers in their pay, they have Judges belonging to their party, they have separate tribunals, they have money, they have adherents, and the Government supports them. They have all that the conqueror needs to oppress the conquered. Up to this time their exclusive privileges were on the increase, at the expense of the just rights of the natives. But Lord Ripon shewed sympathies for the natives whose fathers were once great, but who are now fallen. The shortsighted and vainglorious Europeans could not tolerate this. They thought that their rights, though unjust, but long enjoyed, are invaded; and hence they have raised a hue and cry against His Excellency.

MEDINI.

26. The same paper complains that Mr. Wilson, the Magistrate of Midnapore, though well-meaning, has done wrong in sending away his Midnapore amla, and allowing Buzlal Karim to proceed with

Buzlal Karim, the Deputy Magistrate of Ghattal.
him during the investigation of the charges against him. Mr. Karim always remained with the Magistrate. The people fear him so much that they never ventured to come before him, and he prevented people from coming to the Magistrate both by direct and indirect means. The people in despair sent letters by post; but he used to receive them and tear them

to pieces. Proofs of this will not be wanting if necessary. The writer suggests that the pleaders and muktears of Ghattal who are now at Midnapore, and Baboos Devendranath Ghosh, Bipin Vihari Dutta, Krishnalal Mazoomdar, Kartic Chandra Mittra, may be examined with advantage. Though not eye-witnesses, they will say what they have heard from respectable parties.

27. The *Rungpore Dik Prakash*, of the 20th December, says that, when

Lord Ripon.

a right is just, it is respectable. But the right for which the Anglo-Indians are mak-

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
Dec. 20th, 1883.

ing so much noise is hateful and contemptible. All the world in one voice pronounces them self-seeking, vain and jealous of the prosperity of others, for this intense selfishness has nearly destroyed their knowledge, their spiritedness, their civilization and their intelligence. The policy of Lord Ripon is the policy suited to the times. Unless one knows himself, he can have no friends; unless there is friendship, there will not be courtesy, familiarity and unity; as long as England holds herself aloof, as long as she considers herself the conqueror and India the conquered, all intelligent people will declare that England does not understand her responsibility in India. The Viceroy has indeed become an eyesore to Anglo-Indians, but he is an object of praise and benediction to the ever-loyal people of India, and to the high-minded Englishmen at home.

28. A correspondent writing from Govindganj, Rungpore, in the

Malaria and Famine.

same paper, says that malaria has only re-

cently made its appearance in that locality.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKASH.

Though there is no famine, still there is great scarcity of food. Poor people have already taken to one meal a day. Famine is likely to follow, as the winter crop has failed.

29. The *Udbodhan*, of the 21st December, after giving an account of the appeal in the Dacca Student's Case before Mr. Justice Cunningham, says that

The Dacca Student's Case.

Rajnath, the accused, will be set free in a short time. But the renown for justice of Mr. Cunningham will never be effaced from the memory of man. The conduct of the Magistrate and of the Assistant Magistrate of Dacca is not to be taken into account. There are many proud and self-sufficient Magistrates like them in India, who have no idea of justice or religion. But when the people see the Judges of the High Court dispense justice in the way the Magistrates do in the mofussil, they become subject to despair. They tremble for their safety. The offence for which a school-boy in England is fined Rs. 50 if rich, and Rs. 2-8 if poor, is punished in this country with rigorous imprisonment for three months. May the Lord extend His protecting arm over the people of India! Be that as it may, would it not be expedient to make the people of England acquainted with the history of this strange trial, so that English gentlemen might see how well justice was administered in India. This affair should also be made known to Lord Ripon; he will be able to see that the whole of the Criminal Procedure Code, and not a few sections only, requires revision.

30. The *Murshidabad Pratinidhi*, of the 21st December, is glad to learn that Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Jopp

The Eastern Bengal Railway.

has, in reply to a communication sent from

UDBODHAN,
Dec. 21st, 1883.

the East Bengal Association for improving native female carriages, assured the Association that Government will try to make better arrangements for the convenience of native passengers on all the Indian railways.

31. The *Shakti*, of the 21st December, says that Lord Ripon has shewn, in his recent speech on the Ilbert Bill, a considerable amount of large-heartedness,

Lord Ripon on the Ilbert Bill.

patience and impartiality. He has mutilated the Bill and made it

MURSHIDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
Dec. 21st, 1883.

SHAKTI,
Dec. 21st, 1883.

powerless for preserving the peace of the country and satisfying its opponents. But will the low-minded, self-seeking opponents of the measure be satisfied with this? Will their evil desires come to an end? Will Anglo-Indians, with the *Englishman* for their leader, be ashamed of their meanness in the presence of the nobleness of Lord Ripon? If not, the writer desires the Select Committee *not* to mutilate the Bill.

PRABHÁTI,
Dec. 21st, 1883.

32. The *Prabháti*, of the 21st December, says that Baker Pasha is going to fight in the Soudan. The British Government has declared that neither British

nor Indian troops will be sent to help the Khedive. It is foolish on the part of the Egyptian Government to go to war in Central Africa when the achievements of Arabi Pasha are still fresh in the memory of men, and also when the chief supporters of that Government have set their face against the war.

DAINIK VARTA,
Dec. 21st, 1883.

33. The *Dainik Vártá*, of the 21st December, remarks that, as Government does not understand the language of its subjects, it has to depend on the

Bengali Translator. The gentleman who now holds the office of Bengali Translator commands the respect of the public. But he has no time to attend to the reporting work. He is busy with the translations of laws and regulations; and thus has to depend on his assistants. The goods manufactured at the office of the Government Translator should be supplied to the Press, that the writers may compare the translation with the original, and see whether the translation is correct. Government thinks that it knows the real feelings of the Native Press by reading the translation. But that may not actually be the case.

VIKRAMPUR PATRIKA,
Dec. 21st, 1883.

34. The *Vikrampur Patriká*, of the 21st December, says that the natives of India are exceedingly loyal to the English. English education has made them

more loyal than ever. But the English Government distrusts them. Neither the Hindoos nor the Mahomedans disarmed the people. But the English Government has done this. It should be ashamed of this. Every nation on the face of the earth, civilized or uncivilized, has the privilege of freely using arms. The people of India only are deprived of the privilege. Nothing can be a matter of greater regret than this.

ARYA DARPAN,
Dec. 21st, 1883.

35. The *Arya Darpan*, of the 21st December, regrets that Bengal is Bengal in the International Exhibition not properly represented in the Calcutta International Exhibition, though it is held in

the very heart of this province. Bengal has no Court assigned to it. The spindles of Bengali women, the fine threads woven by them, the fine-arts of Assam, the silk of Moorshedabad, the ivory boxes of Sylhet, the muslin of Dacca which last was known among French ladies as evening dew, these and a thousand other remarkable objects of art in Bengal are missing at the Exhibition. The few works of high artistic worth that are exhibited cannot be recognized as coming from Bengal, as there is no separate place assigned for it.

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 21st, 1883.

36. The *Sansodhini*, of the 21st December, regrets that Mr. A. Barua, Joint-Magistrate, has been transferred to Jessore. He was very popular in the district in which he was employed.

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 21st, 1883.

37. The *Pratikár*, of the 21st December, gives three instances of the glory of the Public Works Department—*first*, the drains at Khagra; *secondly*, the embankment on the Ganges; *thirdly*, the Berhampur College buildings. The first is not calculated to do any mischief, but the utter disregard of the

principles of sanitation has made the drains mischievous, inasmuch as putrid water from those drains falls into the Ganges, the water of which is generally used for drinking and bathing purposes. *Secondly*, the channel of the Bhagirathee is regarded by the authorities as their own private drain. They sift it sometimes to the right, sometimes to the left, just as they please. The bamboos, mats and straw protecting the embankment become putrid and spread malaria over the neighbourhood. *Thirdly*, no sooner were the Berhampur College buildings erected, than cracks appeared in them. New estimates for repairs were made. The buildings changed colour several times, but continue to bear the evidence of repeated repairs.

38. The same paper remarks that the Ilbert Bill will do the people no good for the present. It will simply remove
The Ilbert Bill. the objections to the appointment of natives to

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 21st, 1883.

the higher ranks of the service on the ground of their race. But attempts have been made from the year 1833 to remove these objections, but with no success. The Bill will provide for the trial of Europeans and Eurasians by natives duly qualified. But who is to select the duly qualified native? Ultimately it will rest with some European or other, and no native will ever be regarded as so qualified. So the present state of things will continue.

39. The *Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 21st December, regrets to notice that no arrangements have yet been
The International Exhibition. made by the authorities of the International
Exhibition for the convenience of respectable native females who may desire to witness the Exhibition.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 21st, 1883.

40. The *Bangabásí*, of the 22nd December, condemns the judgment
The Dacca Student's Case. of Mr. Justice Cunningham in the Dacca
Student's Case on appeal, on grounds similar to those noticed in paragraph 78 of the Report for the week ending the 22nd December 1883.

BANGABASI,
Dec. 22nd, 1883.

41. The same paper is not satisfied with the Resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor on the state of the crops. It thinks that His Honor wants to stop the mouths of the public by indicating that the scarcity will not be severely felt. His Honor has not put his trust in the reports of the Magistrates of Maldah, Rajshahi and Mozufferpur, expressing the possibility of a famine, and he has promised to enquire into the matter more carefully. In short, His Honor thinks that an eight-anna crop has been reaped, but this statement is at variance with the weekly reports published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

42. The same paper draws the attention of the Road Cess Committee, Hugli, to the state of the road leading from
The road from Senet. Senet to Goswami Malpara hât in the Hugli district, which is so bad that all approach to the hât from five or six villages in the neighbourhood of Senet is impracticable during the rains.

BANGABASI.

43. The same paper remarks that the transfer of the toll office from Bamanghata to Dhápá is causing much inconvenience to the people. The canal is very narrow at the point, and loaded vessels find it difficult to stop there.

BANGABASI.

44. A correspondent of the same paper remarks that the removal of the Kasipur school, which was already a dwindling institution, to Baranagore, where there is also a school, has injured both institutions. The managers of the Kasipur school do not agree to an amalgamation.

BANGABASI.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
Dec. 23rd, 1883.

45. The *Grámvártá Prakáshiká*, of the 23rd December, says that the Commissioner of the division and not the Magistrate of the district should have the control of the Self-Government Boards. The controlling power of the Commissioner will be less mischievous than that of the Magistrate.

46. The same paper condemns the conduct of Mr. Lowis, the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, in reporting that there will be no necessity for a railway in Chittagong for ten years to come, after the

The Chittagong-Daudkandi Rail-way.
matter had so much progressed that even the sites for the stations had been selected by the Lieutenant-Governor. Many believe that the representations of the Bullock Brothers, who have a steamer plying in this quarter, have induced him to take this step. The matter should be properly investigated.

47. In connection with the appeal of the Dacca Student's case, the same paper remarks that Bengalis are a weak and subject race. They have no power, so

The Dacca Student's case.
they are obliged to accept such justice as Judges are pleased to mete out. Everything is tolerated in India, the playground of Englishmen. In any other country, this case would have produced the greatest sensation.

48. The same paper continues its article headed "What are our grievances," and says that England has done much for India and is doing much still. India is not the field of oppression for England. She is not her sporting-field. She is her follower and her dependent. England is the giver and India the receiver of favours.

From the time of the Permanent Settlement, agricultural improvement has become impossible. The historian of British India has admitted this. Even Mr. Lethbridge, the supporter of the zemindars, has said that from that time the raiyats have become poor and an object of pity to the zemindar. The condition of the labourers is becoming more and more miserable every day. This is patent to all.

49. The Ilbert Bill, remarks the same paper, has been introduced to remove a defect in the Criminal Procedure The Ilbert Bill. Code, to uphold the honour of the Queen's Proclamation, and to give effect to the liberal policy of the Government of India. If the Bill is withdrawn on account of the cry raised by a handful of Europeans, it will expose the weakness of the Government, while that Government will lose much of the respect of the people of India. It is not politic to incur the displeasure of 250 millions to please 40 thousand volunteer soldiers. If the Bill does not pass, the natives will think that the Government was all along hoaxing them. The Anglo-Indians will then be encouraged; they will slight the Government, and establish a despotic régime. The days of ruling India with the sword have gone by. The eyes of the natives have opened. Lord Ripon is respected and loved by the natives. Many worship him in their hearts as an incarnation of righteousness. If he cuts off the head of this Bill with his own hand, he will be regarded in quite another light.

SULABHA SAMÁCHÁR,
Dec. 22nd, 1883.

50. A correspondent of the *Sulabh Samáchár*, of the 22nd December, writing from Hat Basantapur, says that the road leading to Jálháubád from Burdwan is infested with robbers. It lies through an uninhabited tract of land, protected only by three police outposts at the distance of seven miles each. Only the other day, the Honorary Magistrate, Mirza Masihuddin Ahmed was attacked by a gang of eight or ten dacoits at the distance of about half a mile from the outpost at Mogalmari. He was saved by the prompt assistance of the police, but it is a matter of great regret that such things should happen under the British Government.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

51. The *Sanjivani*, of the 22nd December, complains of the mismanagement on the part of Mr. Bellett in conducting the Entrance and First Arts Examinations of the Calcutta University. The number of mathematical papers fell short, so each paper had to be torn in two pieces for distribution. Mr. Bellett's anger, threats and rebukes considerably frightened the boys.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 22nd, 1883.

The Calcutta University.

Examinations of the Calcutta University. The number of mathematical papers fell short, so each paper had to be torn in two pieces for distribution. Mr. Bellett's anger, threats and rebukes considerably frightened the boys.

52. The same paper remarks, in connection with the judgment of Mr. Cunningham on appeal in the Dacca Student's case.

SANJIVANI.

Student's case, that at present the English are a ruling and the natives a subject race. The natives, though subject, have not ceased to feel that freedom is better than slavery. With the advance of English education and progress in social and religious matters, the people have become anxious for obtaining political freedom. As long as the English Government governs the people with justice, as long as it concedes to the people their just rights, it has nothing to fear; as long as men, noble-minded like Lord Ripon, are rulers, the British ascendancy in India will remain inviolate. If ever India slips from the hands of the English, if the natives of India ever become rebellious, it will be for the fault of a class of thoughtless, self-seeking Englishmen beginning with Mr. Thompson, the Lieutenant-Governor, and ending with Mr. McGuire, of Chittagong. The natives of India are cowards, but even worms would bite if too often vexed. Since Mr. Thompson became the ruler of Bengal, since an agitation was set on foot against the Ilbert Bill, the European Judges have trampled justice under foot and have sorely oppressed the people of India. Had not Lord Ripon applied a soothing balsam to their distressed hearts, India would have become by this time a scene of anarchy. The columns of newspapers are filled with stories of the oppression committed by tyrannical Englishmen. Mr. Thompson is not an idiot. He knows everything; but instead of checking the high-handed officials, he promotes them or transfers them to healthier stations; thus shewing his contempt for public opinion, and encouraging oppression. Had the people the power, they would have, at this very moment, dismissed such a ruler and sent him home. But they are slaves—they are slaves—they are bond slaves; and it is therefore that hot-headed Judges, who have lost their heads in political agitation, now occupy that bench which was at one time occupied by elderly men who made no distinction of colour, and who dispensed justice impartially, even in the midst of great agitation. O, Cunningham! Cunningham! the sting of a hundred scorpions was better; but the sting of your cruel order on Rajnath is unbearable. The way you have behaved on the bench of a court like the High Court of Calcutta scorches the very soul. The people have no power over you, and it is therefore that the heart-burning is so great.

The writer then gives a detailed account of the case before Mr. Justice Cunningham, and remarks:—Mr. Justice Cunningham at once jumped to the conclusion that the punishment was just, without hearing the arguments of Mr. Ghose. Justice cannot be expected from one who sits on the bench with a prejudiced mind. The minute which was published by the Judges of the High Court maddened by the agitation about the Ilbert Bill, the minute whose worthlessness has been proved by Professor Max Muller, the minute for which Lord Hartington considered the Judges to be foolish, was the outcome of Mr. Cunningham's brain. This Cunningham was dear to India's old friend, Lord Lytton. For these reasons people thought Mr. Cunningham one of their best friends. By now declaring the punishment of Rajnath to be just, he has become the best friend of the people.

The writer then proceeds to give the details of a parallel case in which an Englishman, Mr. Clint, who beat a policeman and drew his blood was let off with a light punishment, and asks Mr. Cunningham to compare the two cases.

53. The same paper remarks that the President and the Secretary of the Outstill Commission are officers of Government. They will certainly be on the side of

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 22nd, 1883.
The Outstill Commission.
the Government. Mr. Reilly, it is rumoured, is against the system of outstills, but he, too, is an officer of Government. Babu Krisna Behari Sen hates liquor, but he has all along been a school-master. Cleverness is foreign to him; he is totally unacquainted with the way in which witnesses are to be examined and cross-examined. So it is apprehended that the opinion of the officials will prevail. The way in which the Commission has set to work is not at all re-assuring. No one knows the dates on which they will go to a particular place, and what subjects they will enquire into. The Outstill Commission should have published a few questions, and invited the public to come forward with their evidence, just as the Education Commission did. The Commission will proceed from Behar to Western Bengal, and the writer asks the people of Behar and Western Bengal to be ready with their evidence so that they may show the banefulness of the outstill system.

54. The same paper says that the assurances of the Lieutenant-

Mr. Thompson on the apprehension
of famine.
Governor that there will be no famine, though high prices will rule, have not allayed

the apprehensions of the people. The writer cannot praise the rejection of the reports of the local Collectors, who made personal enquiries, by the Commissioners and by the Lieutenant-Governor, all of whom live at a distance. People cannot understand the mysterious expression that though the outturns are very meagre all over Bengal, Behar and Orissa, still the people will not suffer from scarcity. A few years ago, when there was a famine in the province of Agra, the local Collectors sent gloomy reports, but they were all rejected by Sir George Couper. People died by thousands, still he was inexorable. He still tried to make the world believe that there was no famine. It was Lord Lytton's administration then; the Viceroy supported the Lieutenant-Governor, and numberless people died. The writer prays with the Lieutenant-Governor that there be no famine, but he asks His Honor not to disregard the reports of local officers.

55. The *Halishahar Prakáshiká*, of the 22nd December, condemns

The Ilbert Bill.
the *Concordat* on the subject of the Ilbert Bill, and says that the native Civilians are

indeed placed on a par with the European. But the European Civilians, too, lose the power of trying European offenders, which is transferred to European juries. The writer never thought that the Bill would pass in such a way that its passing would be of no use.

56. The *Uchit Baktá*, of the 22nd December, complains that the

The Education Commission on the
use of the Persian character.
Education Commission has recommended the use of the Persian character in those pro-

vinces of India where the Persian and Arabic languages are known to the people. This the Editor considers to be an encroachment upon the liberty of the natives of the country.

57. The *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 24th December, approves of the

The Emigration Act.

amendments in the Emigration Act moved and carried by the Hon'ble Kristo Das Pal,

and observes that, in the copy of the agreement paper to be furnished to the intending emigrant, the provision of the law which has reference to the liability to punishment of the recruiter who employs threats to any coolies should also be inserted. The Editor concludes by asking Government to prohibit emigration to the German and French colonies.

58. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 23rd December, remarks that the judgment given by Justices Cunningham and Maclean in the Dacca Student's case is marked

The Dacca Student's case.
by bias. If they had any idea of the crowd on the Janmashtami day at Dacca, they would have perceived how difficult the identification of any particular individual was. The Police are all in all in the mofussil; and if they are not checked, but rather encouraged by the authorities of the district, and even by the Judges of the High Court, they will become simply terrible. At the very outset of the trial, Mr. Cunningham exclaimed it was a trumpery case, and that the time of the Court should not be wasted in such paltry cases. Mr. Cunningham thought the case trivial. He could not evidently realise how degrading and painful the sentence of whipping was.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 23rd, 1883.

59. The same paper is surprised to hear that after the survey of the Chittagong-Daudkandi Railway. Chittagong-Daudkandi Railway line has been completed, and a Collector appointed for the acquisition of land, the Commissioner of the Division should write that for ten years to come there will be no necessity for the line. A rumour is afloat that the Commissioner was afraid that the construction of the line would interfere with the steamer service of Bullock Brothers of Chittagong.

DACCA PRAKASH.

60. The same paper says that, though the Lieutenant-Governor has given assurances that relief works will not be necessary in Bengal, the steady rise in the price of rice makes people very uneasy. Gentlemen on fat pay can pay eight or ten rupees for a maund of rice. But poor people will suffer greatly if they have to pay at that high rate.

DACCA PRAKASH.

61. The *Navavibhákar*, of the 24th December, considers the statement made by some Englishmen, that under British rule India has become more powerful than formerly, and that the various races of

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
Dec. 24th, 1883.

National spirit under British rule. India are being gradually welded into one nation. The editor believes that for the people of India to form one nation, on the ground of using the same language and following the same religion, is an impossibility. Such a result can never be expected. Language, religion and social manners and customs are powerful obstacles in the way of forming a common nationality. Have these obstacles been removed under British rule? If they have been even to some extent, British rule may then be regarded as having contributed towards the making of the people of India one nation. English education has in a large measure diminished religious animosity. There is now no longer that feeling of intolerance between Hindus and Mussulmans which used to be noticed formerly. Some measure of success has been attained in this respect. Intercourse between the different races of India has been in some measure facilitated by the increasing use of the English language. Railways and canals also have done much in this direction. Owing to these circumstances, something has indeed been done towards the attainment of the object in view; but what remains to be accomplished can only be brought about by the calling forth of a feeling of political wants and grievances. Political wants and grievances affect all India, and it is therefore easy for the whole Indian population to labour to obtain their redress. Lord Lytton's rule furnished a splendid opportunity for the awakening of the national spirit of the Indian people. The laws enacted by that ruler were loudly protested against all over India, and the necessity was felt of working in concert. Lord Ripon's rule also has, though in a different manner, promoted the work of national unification. In proportion as he has become an object of dislike with Europeans, in that proportion has he become an object of regard with the people of the country, who feel as

one man in this matter. The use of the word "native" by Europeans to designate the people of this country has done much to promote national unity. The people of India should bear in mind that the English rulers are not in favour of promoting a national spirit among them. Their administrative policy may contribute to that result, but the object of that policy is not to create a national spirit. What the English rulers have hitherto done in this country has had the effect of disorganizing native society ; witness the extinction of village communities. It should be the paramount duty of the people of India to seek to re-organise native society.

62. The same paper contains an article headed the " Surrender of

Government to the European Defence Association."

The surrender of Government. After giving the text of the *Concordat*, the editor proceeds to make the following observations :—When, on Saturday morning, we read this news in an English daily, we could not believe it to be true. But when we read it successively in the three dailies, its authenticity could not any longer be questioned. Our hearts became filled with wonder and sorrow. What wonder that native society would be alarmed, startled, and disappointed to find that a secret treaty had been made with that rebel Association which had insulted the Viceroy and slandered Government and the native community alike ; that a right had been all at once and unhesitatingly conferred upon the European Defence Association, which that body had never even dreamt of obtaining ; that a right had been ungrudgingly conferred upon the European accused in India, the sporting-ground of English despotism, which they did not enjoy even in England ; that the invidious distinctions made in the criminal law as regards the trial of European British subjects and natives had been unduly aggravated ; that by entrusting the trial of the European accused in the mofussil in a manner in their own hands, their immunity from punishment had been facilitated ; and that, fascinated by the wiles of the leaders of the European Defence Association, and puzzled by their alternate threats and offers of friendship, Government had shewn an unprecedented vacillation and weakness ? We cannot adequately express the feelings of mortification and despondency which have been caused to native society since this news was published. A feeling of terror creeps through our hearts even at the thought of how the European Defence Association, by shewing a spirit of rebellious insubordination, inspired the Governor-General's Council with fear ; how a few Calcutta Barristers combined and brought that Council under their influence, and compelled it to act according to their wishes ; and what dreadful lessons the native community has learnt from all these events. We can well understand that Lord Ripon and Mr. Ilbert are placed in a perilous position, and that the number and strength of their opponents stand as obstacles in the way of the accomplishment of Lord Ripon's noble resolve ; so that His Excellency is not now able either to pass the Ilbert Bill or to abandon it. When one is placed in such a dilemma, one requires unwavering calmness, firmness and courage. Most members of the Council probably lack that courage and firmness. Why otherwise should Lord Ripon be anxious to make such a treaty ? For seeking to deal equitably with natives, the liberal-hearted Lord Ripon has incurred much odium. For this we shall be ever grateful to him. Considering the difficult position in which he has been placed for our sake, we cannot help expressing our sympathy for him. But it is to be regretted that in the present instance we cannot defend his action. Lord Ripon is indeed to us a very dear friend, but the interests of our country are to us dearer.

It is exceedingly to be regretted that, after his return to Calcutta, Lord Ripon was taken in by the wiles of a few European Barristers who constitute the mouthpiece of the European Defence Association, and that

unable to perceive the consequences of the proposed amendments, and without hearing both sides, he has made a settlement with one party only. Because native District Magistrates and Sessions Judges are to be given criminal jurisdiction over European British subjects, a new right is being conferred upon the European accused, viz. that it will be open to them to pray for a trial by jury in all cases in those courts. Now everybody knows that the District Magistrate is entrusted with so much work that he himself has but little leisure to try criminal cases; but if the Ilbert Bill passes, some native District Magistrate may happen to try a European defendant. Can an Anglo-Indian bear all this? Consequently provision is made that in all cases tried in a District Magistrate's court, the European defendant may, at his pleasure, claim to be tried by a jury; and yet this rule will not apply in the courts presided over by European Joint-Magistrates, Assistant Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates, who are all subordinate to the District Magistrate. Lest some day some native District Magistrate should happen to try a European, the powers of European Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates are kept intact, while those of the District Magistrate are being curtailed. And yet native defendants are not being given equal privileges. Is this even-handed justice? In the mofussil, again, there are districts where it would be difficult to empanel an English jury. Consequently, for want of a qualified jury, the case would have to be transferred elsewhere. The inconvenience arising from the proposed amendment will be greater than that resulting from the present practice of transferring cases to the files of English Magistrates. Further, it will be obvious to all who are acquainted with these matters that, if the system of trial by jury is introduced into the courts of Magistrates in the mofussil, it will be almost impossible to punish a European criminal. Everybody knows that it is very difficult, even in Calcutta, where the English jury is comparatively independent, to obtain the conviction of a European defendant. Consequently, there is very little expectation of seeing five European indigo planters or railway employés in the mofussil convict and punish another indigo planter or railway employé. It is gratifying to find that even the editor of the *Statesman* clearly admits this. Such injustice was not likely to happen even before 1872. The new right which it is proposed to confer upon Englishmen is one which they do not enjoy even in their own country. They did not so long ask for such a right, nor did they ever expect to get it. But now, thanks to the Ilbert Bill agitation, they have obtained this new right, though the invidious distinction made in the criminal law, as regards the trial of Europeans and natives continues. In one or two instances, Europeans have been nominally, but not in practice, placed under the jurisdiction of native Magistrates. Will not Europeans laugh in their sleeves at all this, and, thinking Government to be weak and foolish look, with contemptuous defiance, upon the natives of this country?

The *Mirror* is credibly informed that Government has given no such pledge that the present decision on the subject of the criminal trial of Europeans will be considered final. No Government has the right to give any such pledge, nor has the Executive Council the right to interfere with the independence and privileges of the Legislative Council. We shall be really happy if the statement that Lord Ripon's Government has not given such an unjust and illegal undertaking proves true. But "the Executive Committee of the Defence Association to treat this understanding as a settlement;" what do these words mean? It behoves Government to explain the true meaning of these words. But whether or not Government has given any such undertaking, if it now hesitates to arrive at an equitable settlement of this question, then, remembering

the sorry plight to which the present Government has been reduced, no other Government will, perhaps for the next hundred years, venture to make any such proposal. Even if it ventures to make any, the Europeans, relying on the former precedent, will make a stronger protest and throw obstacles in the way of progress.

No Magistrate can now pass a sentence of imprisonment for a period exceeding three months upon European British subjects. Government has now proposed that the powers of District Magistrates in this matter will be now slightly increased, viz. that they will be able to pass a sentence of six months' imprisonment upon Europeans. But what is to be gained by all this? English Magistrates will be able freely to send natives to jail for two years, but English Magistrates agreeing with an English jury will not be able to pass a sentence of imprisonment on a European convict exceeding six months. The Sessions Judge, who can inflict capital punishment upon native Rajas and chiefs, cannot send a European sailor to jail for more than one year. Magistrates can try natives summarily, and can freely send them to jail for three months. The convicted person cannot appeal even if there has been a failure of justice. But an Englishman can appeal even if he be fined one rupee. Considering that such invidious distinctions are allowed to continue, we do not see how the ends of justice will be better served by providing that henceforth Magistrates will be able to pass sentences of imprisonment for six months, and not for three months as formerly.

The proposed settlement is likely to produce consequences more injurious than those which would follow from the withdrawal of the Ilbert Bill. We should not have been so sorry if Government had expressly stated that it lacked the courage and the strength to pass the Ilbert Bill, and had accordingly withdrawn it, or if it had failed to get it passed in the Legislative Council after sufficient efforts had been made. In that case, understanding our true position, we might have sought relief by any legal means that was open to us. But we can never agree to the settlement which Government, to please the European Defence Association, is now seeking to bring about. We have already shown that such a settlement is likely to do increased harm. We should not remain quiet any longer. Shall we remain indifferent even after witnessing the result of the agitation made by the European Defence Association? Let the whole Indian population in one voice protest against this settlement, and raise a powerful agitation over this matter both in India and in England. Lord Ripon may yet rectify his error, and the Secretary of State disapprove of the settlement, and what if we fail after making the agitation! If after due exertions success is not met with, where indeed is the fault?

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63. The same paper observes, in reference to the Emigration Act recently passed by the Indian Legislative

Council, that it is to be regretted that the officers appointed by Government to report on the subject of emigration in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces, viz. Messrs. Pilcher and Grierson, have in their recommendations shown a bias in favour of the employers of coolie labour. Happily their recommendations have not received much favour. Even Sir Alfred Lyall has expressed doubts as to the wisdom of their suggestions. The editor concludes in the following words:— “The Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Alfred Lyall, has doubts, but we have not any. We are not prepared to empty our houses in order to fill the houses of others. There is nothing to show that because free trade principles apply in the case of inanimate goods, they are to be applied in the case of living beings. The inducements now held out are sufficient, the bait now offered is proving the destruction of shoals of fish. There is no need of adding any more spice to the bait. We are glad that

the Government of India has disregarded the advice of the planter pleaders, and instead of entrusting the Education Department with the task of enticing away the coolies, has hit upon a middle path. It is our belief that in the recruitment of coolies it is the coolies who suffer the greater amount of oppression, and that their employers are never so much oppressed."

64. The same paper warmly approves of the amendments in the Emigration Bill moved and carried by the Hon'ble Kristo Das Pal at a late meeting of the Indian Legislative Council.

65. The same paper regrets to have to differ from the views of the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of the apprehended scarcity.

The apprehended scarcity. A perusal of the reports of the district and sub-divisional officers has convinced the editor that this year there will be scarcity and high prices, that there will not be more than an eight-anna crop, and that rice is likely to sell from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 a maund. This means great hardship to the poor and even the middle classes. The question whether or not exportation of rice should be stopped should be disposed of without delay. The editor is of opinion that the quantity of exports should be reduced.

66. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 24th December, writing from Mirgrám, asks the editor to bring to the notice of the Postmaster-

General, Bengal, the fact that there is often great delay in the delivery of the *Som Prakash* newspaper to its subscribers in that village, who never get it in time.

67. The same paper remarks that the time has come when the posts of Governor-General and the different Lieutenant-Governors may be abolished with

The Indian administration. advantage. There is no need of either the Council of the Governor-General or that of the Secretary of State. There should be Governors for the Presidencies, and these men should all be brought out from England, and not selected in India, where the atmosphere spoils the moral nature of Englishmen. It behoves the English Government to now directly govern India from England.

68. The same paper observes that there is much oppression still committed on the coolies in the Assam tea gardens. The condition of those employed

Emigration. in foreign colonies is still worse. The editor urges that a humane treatment should be extended to coolies.

69. The same paper makes the following observations on the text of the *Concordat* with the European Defence Association in the matter of the Ilbert Bill:—

The Ilbert Bill; the *Concordat*. Those that are powerful, and are accustomed to do wrong and make invidious distinctions, show those traits of character even when any act of justice is being undertaken. Will the privilege of trial by jury be allowed in cases in which natives are tried by European Magistrates? The proposal to pass the Ilbert Bill has been always a hollow affair. It behoves the native community and native editors to exercise moderation. Read the history of ancient India, Rome and Greece, and nowhere will you find that the wishes of the weak were easily gratified? But justice prevails in the end. It is difficult even for a civilized community to give up its pride. Every consideration of morality and religion is sacrificed to this feeling. Lord Ripon is, however, to be thanked for doing so much for the people of this country. There are still grave doubts as to whether the Ilbert Bill will be really passed in the precise terms of the *Concordat*. But cowardice and love of peace are twin-sisters whose distinctive features cannot always be made out.

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NAVAVIBHAKAR.

SOM PRAKASH,
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SOM PRAKASH.

SOM PRAKASH.

SOM PRAKASH.

70. We extract the following observations from the *Ananda Bazar*

Patriká, of the 24th December :—Is the news published in the daily papers of Lord Ripon and the *Concordat*.

Saturday last, regarding the Ilbert Bill, true? Has Lord Ripon done this at last? The people looked upon him as their own. Was he so long playing with natives? After giving the text of the *Concordat*, the Editor proceeds to remark that Anglo-Indians are now satisfied with the settlement made by Lord Ripon. The people have in a manner become stupified and are powerless to say anything about the modifications in the Ilbert Bill, which Lord Ripon has made in accordance with the prayer of Anglo-Indians. Mr. Ilbert ought to have at the outset introduced the Native Jurisdiction Bill into the Council in the form which it has now assumed. The gradual concession to Anglo-Indian demand, under the influence of reproof, intimidation, abuse and bluster, has furnished a very bad lesson to the 250 millions of the subject native population. Henceforth, to bring over the Governor-General or any other high official to their own views, natives will not make humble prayers, sing praises, or petition with joined hands like loyal subjects, but will assume a mutinous attitude, resolve to disobey the orders of Government, burn the Governor-General in effigy to mark their sense of displeasure with him, and cease to accord him due respect in public places. The agitation over the Jurisdiction Bill has taught this dreadful lesson to the natives. It is to be hoped this will not lead astray the loyal people of India. But if they are led astray, what a dreadful thing it will be.

Lord Ripon has at length, by means of the Jurisdiction Bill, conferred great (?) benefits upon the country. Formerly, Magistrates, like Mr. Smith, used occasionally to punish criminals like Mr. Meares. But the fears of the European accused are now removed. The system of trial by jury, under which Europeans guilty of having committed murder without any provocation, or of having violated the chastity of respectable females in broad daylight, escape with impunity, will henceforth apply in all cases in which a European stands charged with any crime. It is now ruled that henceforth the European accused will have the benefit of trial by a jury, the majority of which will be Europeans, in all places where they may be tried. If the Jurisdiction Bill makes this provision law, it will be the duty of every native of India to stand up against the Bill, because, if Europeans are given the benefit of trial by a European jury, it will be difficult to realize the deplorable condition to which the country will be brought. But how will the right of trial by jury, which Lord Ripon, after being harassed by Europeans, has given them, be reduced to practice? There would not have been much harm if it had been ruled that Europeans would be tried by a jury; such a provision as this could have been easily reduced to practice. But it is now ruled that the majority of the jury are to be Europeans. There are many places in the mofussil where there are but few Europeans, and these are related to each other in some way or other. Consequently, if Europeans are to be tried by a European jury, then either the jury will have to be brought from elsewhere, or the trial held in some place where there is a sufficient number of Europeans. Now, in the mofussil the European population generally consists of indigo or tea planters. In most places, under the chief of a factory, there live half a dozen Europeans. In many instances, therefore, either these subordinates will sit in judgment over their chief, or *vice-versa*. The indigo and the tea planters have generally a community of interests which cannot be promoted without a humbling of natives. In every case in which a native criminally prosecutes a European, the Europeans in the mofussil have an interest in seeing the accused acquitted. These self-seeking Europeans

will probably constitute the jury in cases in which Europeans are concerned, and they will not certainly convict a European. It will therefore come to this, that no European criminal will henceforth receive punishment after a legal trial. The authorities might say that they would check such abuse of power on the part of a jury. But, owing to bias shown by a European jury, Europeans guilty of even serious crimes are acquitted. This the authorities have often clearly understood, and yet they have never sought to check the evil. Nobody knows what was in Lord Ripon's mind before. But if he has any feeling of generosity for the people of this country, let him desist from passing the Ilbert Bill in the form in which he has now resolved to pass it. The Bill will not for the present confer much benefit upon them. The measure may indeed give effect to the Queen's Proclamation, but what is the use of that proclamation if, relying on it, Anglo-Indians can commit oppression with impunity? If Government is resolved to pass the Jurisdiction Bill, after conferring the right of trial by jury as described above on Europeans, what can the people do? If Lord Ripon forsakes the people, and if under his rule a law is passed under which European offenders will be practically exempt from punishment, the conviction will force itself upon the mind that Providence has become adverse to the natives of this country, and that the sun of India's prosperity has sunk below the horizon.

71. We extract the following observations from an article in the same paper on the Dacca Student's case :—
The Dacca Student's case.

When British Judges passed the capital sentence upon Nuncoomar, the whole Hindu population were overpowered with feelings of indignation and terror. The Judges did an act of injustice, but their action was intelligible. When Sir Mordaunt Wells sent the Rev. J. Long to jail, there was a serious miscarriage of justice, but the motives of his action are partially intelligible. One can also understand why the Wahabee Amir Khan, an innocent man, was sent to jail by the machinations of Lord Mayo's Government, as also why the Judges of the High Court unjustly imprisoned Surendra Baboo. But the injustice which Mr. Justice Cunningham has done to the Dacca student is such that it has produced great fear and indignation in the minds of the people. English Judges occasionally do injustice for some object in view. But it is hard to see what an accession to its political strength Government has received from the imprisonment of a schoolboy for a trivial offence. While in Cooch Behar Mr. Rivers Thompson could not check the impulse of his heart, and expressed his anger with native schoolboys. If the Lieutenant-Governor has desired that, to check the unruly disposition of schoolboys, one or two acts of injustice should be committed, and if Mr. Justice Cunningham has, with this object in view, punished the Dacca student, then British rule would seem to have come very nearly to its end. Fear of the Wahabees led Lord Mayo to obtain the imprisonment of Amir Khan by various stratagems. A fear that if Mulharao Guicowar was not punished for the sake of justice, British prestige would be lowered in India, led Lord Northbrook to make him a captive and depose him. Fear of native papers led Lord Lytton to pass the Vernacular Press Act. Does Mr. Rivers Thompson fear that schoolboys will subvert British rule in India, and is it for this that the authorities have begun to inflict heavy punishments upon schoolboys for trivial offences? The Englishmen in this country pride themselves upon their great intelligence and foresight. But they have not yet been able to fully understand the Hindu character. Nobody has ever succeeded in improving off the Hindu nation by a rigorous administration; on the contrary, those that have attempted the task have themselves disappeared in the course of time. This will be clear

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from a perusal of the history of India. The Mahomedans brought ruin upon themselves by seeking to govern India at the point of the sword ; the Sepoy war was due to high-handed administration. Those, therefore, who seek to humble the people of India by means of rigorous rule injure the interests of the British Empire by their lack of foresight. For various reasons the decision of Mr. Justice Cunningham in the Dacca student's case has produced a feeling of profound indignation. The police and magisterial officers in this country have always committed injustice and oppression, but the High Court was the refuge of the oppressed. That Mr. Justice Cunningham, who is a Judge of the High Court, has given such a decision has excited popular indignation, which is also due to the fact that no schoolboy in either England or India has ever received similar punishment in similar circumstances. Another reason why the public have become dissatisfied is that Mr. Cunningham has punished the Dacca lad, although Justices Pigot and Mitter had discharged him on bail, and called for an explanation from the Magistrate of Dacca. Still another reason is to be found in the fact that a European who committed a more serious offence has been recently let off with only a small fine of Rs. 25 by Mr. Henderson, the Chief Magistrate of Calcutta. It behoves Government to consider whether the people of India should be pained by such decisions as that recently given by Mr. Cunningham.

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72. The same paper remarks that the opponents of the Jurisdiction Mr. Fitz James Stephen on the Bill are adducing various arguments in Queen's Proclamation. support of their positions. Not a few are putting a new construction upon the Queen's Proclamation. But it remained for Mr. Stephen to call that document an imposture practised by Government on the people of India. Mr. Stephen laid down the punishment for sedition in the Penal Code. But who is guilty of greater sedition—the man who seeks to subvert British rule, or the man who asks the people of India to believe that the Queen's Proclamation is a mockery and a delusion ? In spite of their boast, Englishmen cannot deny that they were not able to conquer and rule India by the force of their arms. Lord Beaconsfield was a notoriously boastful person, but even he had not the courage to sanction Lord Lytton's high-handed public measures without having first gagged the native newspapers.

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73. The same paper remarks that the conclusion arrived at by Mr. Thompson, that there will be no scarcity Crops in Bengal. in Bengal this year, has caused great uneasiness. It were to be wished that this estimate were correct. But the fact that such over-sanguine estimates led to hundreds of thousands of deaths from starvation in Bombay and Madras a few years ago should always be borne in mind. The local authorities have in their reports expressed their belief that some amount of distress is likely to occur in certain localities ; but the Lieutenant-Governor differs from them on the strength of his own supposition merely.

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74. Lord Ripon, says the same paper, ought to have considered that Lord Ripon and the Concordat. the 40,000 Europeans who live in India have no natural rights in the country like those of the people. England has by force taken away the rights of the people of India, and in proportion in which these rights will be restored to them, will British rule be strengthened in this country. Lord Ripon ought to have considered that these 40,000 Anglo-Indians cannot, even if they wish it, subvert the British Empire in India, but that, if the 250 millions of natives get excited, it will be difficult, if not impracticable, to maintain the Empire. But His Excellency has not considered this.

75. The same paper asks that if Lord Ripon has really resolved to confer upon Europeans in India the privilege of trial by jury in the manner indicated before, natives also should be given this privilege.

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76. The same paper observes that if Lord Ripon really confers upon Anglo-Indians the rights mentioned before, the people will find it difficult to live in this country. And Lord Ripon, the idol and the saviour of the people, has done all this? But the people must remain here, and so their condition will now be no better than that of Carolina slaves. Europeans will now be able to commit any act of oppression with impunity. The European murderer and ravisher will escape punishment. Has Providence forgotten the 250 millions of people?

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77. The following is a translation of a paragraph in the same paper :—“Rumour has it that the Lieutenant-Governor has decided upon introducing Local Self-Government in three or four localities, and that the task of establishing village unions in those localities has been entrusted to Mr. Westmacott. Why the Lieutenant-Governor has decided upon introducing Local Self-Government in three or four places only for the present, and why Mr. Westmacott has been entrusted with the task of establishing village unions, we cannot tell. Have the hopes given by Lord Ripon thus gradually become changed to the poison of disappointment?”

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Mr. Thompson and Local Self-Government.
The state of the crops.

78. The *Surabhi*, of the 24th December, says that the local officers have informed the Government of the state of the crops as represented to them by the cultivators and the chowkidars, and so the Government thinks that the statements are not true, but are exaggerated. Why does Mr. Thompson think so when there is no evidence? Has he adopted, as the guiding principle of his administration, the groundless statement of low Europeans that Bengalis are liars?

SURABHI,
Dec. 24th, 1883.

The Ilbert Bill.

79. The same paper remarks that it never thought that Lord Ripon would show such signs of weakness. The writer is struck dumb at what is being discovered about the Bill. The Government comes to terms with the Anglo-Indian Defence Association, and the Association gets what it never dreamt of receiving. In his speech in the Legislative Council, Lord Ripon proposed certain modifications, but did not even hint at the changes now proposed. Hence it seems probable that the new changes are suddenly introduced. Such rashness is unworthy of Lord Ripon. It is scandalous to declare one thing in the Legislative Council, and then to do another immediately after. By acting thus the Government loses the confidence of the natives. The Europeans did not want this power, then why give it to them unasked? Why ruin the people of India? Again, the District Judge and the District Magistrate alone will have to grant the right of trial by jury at the option of the European criminal, and not the Joint nor the Assistant Magistrate, who are subordinates. This is a new anomaly produced by the changes recently proposed. The inferior officers will enjoy powers which will be denied to the superior officers.

SURABHI

The Dacca Student's case.

80. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 25th December, condemns the decision of Mr. Justice Cunningham in the Dacca Student's case which came up before him on appeal. The writer is struck dumb at the conduct of the Judges in this case, from the Assistant Magistrate to the Judges of the High Court. The Assistant Magistrate may be a hot-headed young man, but even the Judges of the High Court have not shown the wisdom and impartiality worthy of the

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
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Judges of the highest tribunal in the land, in whose hands depends the safety of the lives and property of the people of the whole Province. The writer thinks that the accused never assaulted the police without provocation, and it is on record that the police used their batons.

PRABHÁTI,
Dec. 28th, 1883.

81. The *Prabháti*, of the 28th December, remarks that by agreeing to the settlement announced in the newspapers with the European Defence Association, Lord

Ripon has committed a mistake. His Excellency is not evidently acquainted with the abuse of the system of trial by jury in the mofussil.

ASSAM NEWS,
Dec. 10th, 1883.

82. The *Assam News*, of the 10th December, writes that during the last week rain fell throughout Assam.

Rainfall and crops in Assam.

But it will be of no benefit to cultivation, for

the high land crops were all burnt, and those of the low lands are all too ripe to require water now. It will, however, be of some good to the late mustard.

ASSAM NEWS.

83. A correspondent from Sibsagor writes that the state of the Sibsagor station is very deplorable at present, the whole town being covered with jungle, and cattle being killed there by tigers in broad daylight. Neither the Deputy Commissioner nor the Municipal Commissioners care a bit for this state of things. The Vice-Chairman is ever busy with his own affairs, and does not remain more than a week each month in the station.

ASSAM NEWS.

84. A correspondent writes the following about the Gauhati Municipality :—We have heard of Gauhati being supplied with filtered water. With this object in view, a well was ordered to be dug in Sooclesvar ghât. But before very little was left to finish it, a large rock arrested the progress of the diggers. The half-dug well was again filled up, and another commenced at a very little distance. This was also, for the very same reason, abandoned. How strange it is that the authorities, being fully aware of the rocky nature of the place, did not hesitate to order the second unsuccessful attempt to be made at that very place, and at the useless expense of the poor rate-payers. It was also said that in the current year the water-works would be commenced; but the dry season is nearly half over, and still nothing is being done in that matter. It will be difficult to work during the rains, which is only five or six months hence, and consequently the project will have to be postponed for the next dry time if nothing is settled. The state of the tanks in the station is very bad. Formerly even earthen pots were not allowed to be dipped in them. Men were punished for the offence. But now-a-days they are the reservoirs of all sorts of filth, &c., and notwithstanding that the water is used. Those who are near enough to the river bank use the water of the Brahmaputra, which has now gone down half a mile from the bank, but what can the others do? The Deputy Commissioner once wanted to fill up these tanks in anticipation of the people being supplied with pure water. Some expenditure has also been incurred by way of filling up some of them. Fortunately his scheme was not approved of. The writer prays that the Chief Commissioner will kindly look to the wants of the people.

ASSAM NEWS.

85. A correspondent writes that the state of cultivation in Assam during the last two or three years was satisfactory, but this year it is quite the reverse. There was no rain during the last two months, which was greatly needed. Cultivation of rice and mustard, he says, is the main source of income to cultivators in Assam. The first goes towards their own maintenance, while the other goes to pay off Government liabilities and other rough necessities of the cultivator. But since the mustard crop is a failure this year, what will the

poor ryots do to pay their debts? Lately an officer was down in the plains, and enquired what the ryots cultivate and what the proportion of produce is which they get. Other Government officials are also daily to be seen in the mofussil. The ignorant ryots are alarmed. How well off the people were in the old days of Assam Rajas. The rulers were happy whenever the ryots were so, but now there is no end of trouble to the latter, whereas the rulers are at the height of their enjoyment.

86. The *Utkal Dipika*, of the 8th December, in alluding to the boxes of exhibits that were returned from Calcutta, remarks that the mishap was entirely due to the negligence of the Local Committee,

The International Exhibition.
Exhibits returned.
The International Exhibition.
Exhibits returned.

who had proceeded with their work very slowly. While exhibits were being sent from this place, the people had entertained hopes that Orissa manufacturers would earn both money and reputation in the Exhibition, but all have been in vain.

87. The same paper, in another column, states that Mr. Macmillan, the Executive Engineer, and Mr. Wright, the Subordinate Judge, are both going to retire on pension. Mr. Macmillan spent about 30 years in different occupations in this country, and was very much attached to it. It is a matter of gratification that the post of District Engineer has been offered to him in Gya.

88: The same paper, in alluding to the Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1882, so far as it relates to the exercise of jurisdiction over European British subjects, uses the following impatient words:—"We are every moment expecting the passing of this Bill. No doubt the measure will throw oil on troubled waters."

89. The same paper, in alluding to the reception of His Excellency the Viceroy at Calcutta, makes the following observations:—We are very sorry to learn of the present conduct of Englishmen. The Ilbert Bill has given us a clue to their most secret thoughts. Were it not for actual and palpable facts, no one could believe that England, which ranks high for her civilization, learning and valour, could give birth to such children as these. Lord Ripon is no relative of any gentleman in this country. He has come here simply to represent Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. Those who behave in this way towards Her representatives cannot be classed as human beings by any sensible person. All this makes us believe that the natives of India are the only loyal people. Their ancient civilization has imparted to them a loyal nature. Those whose civilization dates from a few years back cannot, notwithstanding all their learning and progress, boast of a similar loyalty. The Ilbert Bill question has distinguished the respectable from the disreputable classes, for Englishmen of high birth and good position do not sympathise with such conduct as lower class Englishmen have recently shown.

90. The same paper, in alluding to the agitation made by the zemindars of Bengal and Behar in connection with the Bengal Tenancy Bill, makes the following remarks:—The zemindars are of opinion that they are about to be deprived of some of their rights and privileges. We cannot blame them for entertaining this opinion, for we have already remarked in these columns that Government have sided too much with the tenants, often to the sacrifice of the interests of their landlords. We hope that all provisions which show such a tendency will be removed when the Bill comes under the

UTKAL DIPAKA,
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consideration of the Select Committee. No one can blame the zemindars for holding meetings and forming associations with the object of defending their rights and privileges. On the other hand, we are of opinion that agitation teaches people how to unite themselves with the object of securing their interests. Unity is the root of all true advancement. We were therefore very glad to learn that a great meeting of zemindars had taken place in the Calcutta Town Hall a few days back; but we were equally sorry to see them mix with some of the Ilbert Bill agitators, who, in their abuses and vituperations, spared neither Lord Ripon nor natives of this country.

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91. We call the following from the news columns of this paper:—

Mr. Larminie.

Mr. Larminie, the new Commissioner, reached Cuttack yesterday. Babu Kally Pada

Banerjee and others gave him a treat at Jagutpur.

92. The same paper, in giving an abstract account of the report

Report of the Education Commis-
sion.

of the Education Commission, remarks as follows:—The purport of all these recommendations is that more money is required

for the Education Department. It would be a great relief to us if the road cess and other taxes were designated "education cess," and the amount spent in the education of the people. In that case every village would abound in educational institutions.

93. The *Purusottam Patrika*, of the 10th December, states that

Mr. Currie.

Mr. Currie is very particular about the attendance in office of his amlah and official

subordinates. Hence the paper humorously remarks that "the amlah are now as regular as schoolboys."

94. The same paper, in another column, points to the medal, prepared by the Calcutta Arts School, which was selected and approved by the authorities, and remarks:—We must rejoice, inasmuch as Bengali manufactures have excelled those of Europe in open and fair competition.

95. The same paper alludes to a fire that broke out on the 2nd of

A fire.

December in Ramchandi Sahi in Puri, and remarks that the police were conspicuous by

their indifference.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 29th December 1883.

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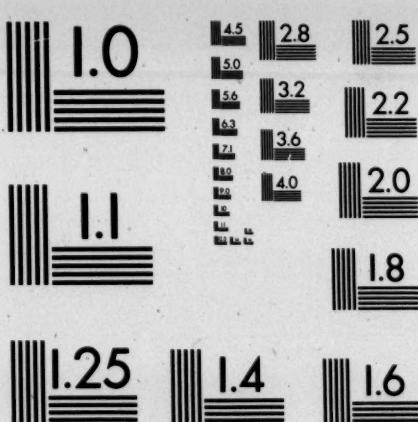
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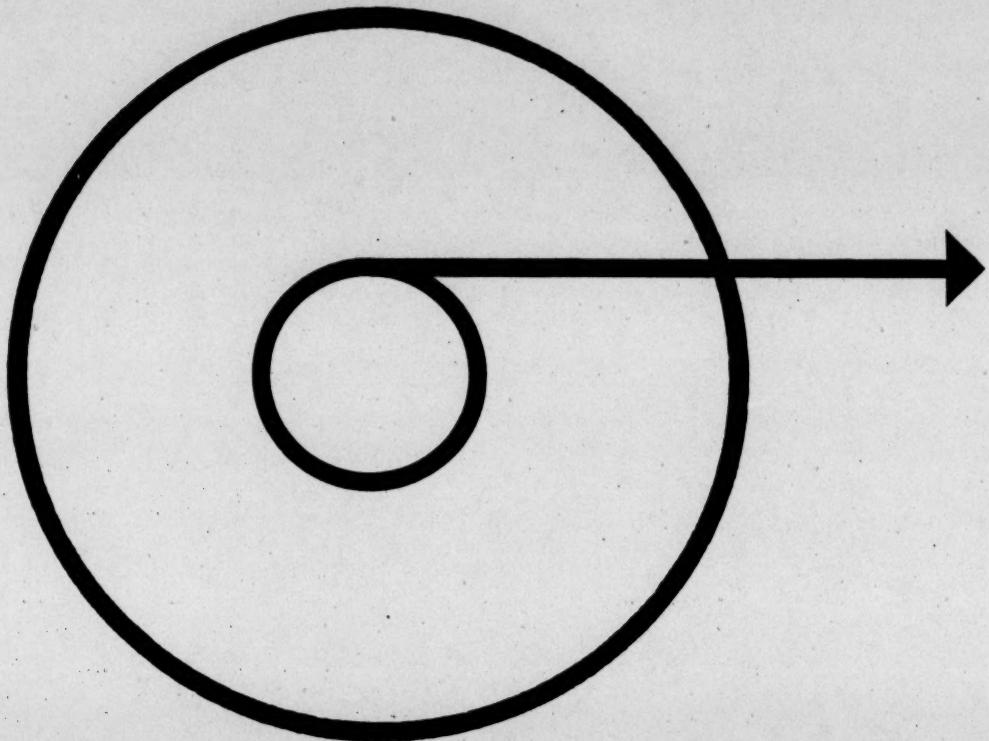
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